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(c) whether instructions have been issued to the Election Officers, in the matter of the preparation of electoral roll, and further proceedings of the elections; and

(d) whether a copy of the same will be placed on the table?

A.—(a) Elections to Municipal Councils will commence in September and are expected to be completed by the 15th of December next. It is not possible to say when elections to local boards will be actually held, but they will probably commence only after 15th December.

(b) The dates for elections to Municipal Councils will be fixed for each separately. The polling for district and taluk boards will probably take place on the same day in each polling area but, until arrangements are more advanced than now, it is difficult to say whether polling at all polling stations in a district will be on the same day. The elections for panchayat boards will be held separately from those for district and taluk boards.

(c) Yes.

(d) If the hon. Member will specify the particular subject instructions in respect of which he desires to be placed on the table, Government will consider the suggestion.

Reservation of seats for minority communities in Mangalore Municipality.

12 noon. * 269 Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) on what principles reservation of seats for minority communities is made in Municipal Councils and Local Boards; and

(b) whether it is a fact that two seats for Christian men and one seat for Christian women have been ordered or are contemplated to be reserved in the case of the Mangalore Municipality; if so, on what basis the reservation has been ordered to be made?

A.—(a) Government are guided by the provisions of sub-sections (3) and (4) of section 7 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and of sub-sections (4), (5) and (6) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920. As under the Acts not more than one-fourth of the number of seats on any local body can be reserved, reservation is ordinarily limited to 50 per cent of what the communities will be entitled to on the population basis. Each case, however, is decided on its own merits.

(b) Two seats have been reserved for Indian Christians and two for women. Two seats are less than what Indian Christians are entitled to on the 50 per cent working principle referred to in the answer to clause (a). The reservation of two seats for women is in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Municipal Council in its resolution, dated 12th March 1931.

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Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" May I know what the recommendation of the Inspector of Local Bodies was in these matters? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—" I don't remember. I want notice of that question."

Grant of extension of service to the Headmaster of the Municipal High School, Cuddapah.

* 270 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the municipal authorities at Cuddapah got the sanction of the Government before granting an extension of service for the sixth time to the Headmaster of the Municipal High School, Cuddapah; if so, whether the Government will state the reasons that led them to grant such an extension?

A.—No application for sanction was received from the Municipal Council.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know whether the headmaster is continuing as headmaster without sanction having been obtained from the Government? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—" After the reply was sent to the Council Office, we received information from the Director of Public Instruction that the present incumbent was reappointed. The Director of Public Instruction also recommended that no action need be taken now and that the Municipal Council may be directed not to extend his term any further. The Government have issued orders accordingly."

Alleged delay in the payment of salaries to school teachers in Malabar and South Kanara Taluk Boards.

* 271 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether complaints have been received by Government or their officers from school teachers employed by taluk boards in Malabar and South Kanara districts regarding undue delay in the payment of their salaries;

(*b*) whether Government have received such complaints from other districts as well;

(*c*) what action Government have taken to insist on local bodies paying the salaries of teachers promptly and regularly; and

(*d*) whether the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts has brought to the notice of Government such cases of undue delay in the payment of salaries?